GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3595
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2015
Foodgrain Supply to NE
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of foodgrains supplied under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to the North-Eastern Region including Sikkim;

(b) whether the Government has received any reports or complaints about leakages in the PDS in the North-Eastern Region, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any difficulties are being faced in the transport of foodgrains to the North-Eastern Region along with the steps taken to address this difficulty; and

(d) the status of end to end computerization of PDS in the North-Eastern Region including Sikkim, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a): The allocation and offtake of foodgrains(rice and wheat) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and their value (economic cost) in respect of North-Eastern States, including Sikkim are at Annex-I.

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(b): There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the TPDS including leakage/diversion of foodgrains, foodgrains not reaching the beneficiaries, etc. in some States including North-East region in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for implementation of TPDS within State/UT rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. During 2015, as on 30.06.2015, 25 complaints were received in respect of North-East.

(c): Certain operational constraints such as inclement topography, landslides due to rain, frequent bandhs/stike, unforeseen circumstances due to law and order problems and natural calamities affect movement of foodgrains sometimes in North Eastern (NE) Region. In order to ensure smooth supply of foodgrains under TPDS and other schemes of Government of India as well as to maintain buffer stocks in NE Region, Food Corporation of India (FCI) plans movement of foodgrain in advance from Punjab/Haryana to different parts of North-East by rail. As there is limited rail network in NE region, FCI inducts stocks from railheads and railhead depots to all FCI depots in the region to ensure smooth supply of foodgrains. Further, Government and FCI continuously monitor the inter-state foodgrains movement to ensure availability of foodgrains in the Region. A joint coordination mechanism between Railways, FCI and Department of Food & Public distribution has been set up to monitor rail movement on weekly/monthly basis. In addition, Co-ordination Committees have also been setup at regional and zonal levels to monitor foodgrains movement. During the year 2014-15 movement of foodgrains to NE Zone has increased by 13% as compared to previous year.

(d): State-wise status of end to end computerization of PDS in NE States, including Sikkim is at Annex-II.

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